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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/PPD AND CTCC (VAN DE VELDE)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/17/2032

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [AU](#)

SUBJECT: IDENTIFYING "CREDIBLE VOICES" IN AUSTRIA'S MUSLIM
COMMUNITY

REF: STATE 122288

Classified By: A/DCM J. DEAN YAP FOR REASONS 1.4(c).

¶1. (S/NF) The following is a list of "credible voices" in Austria who are influential within the Muslim community and who may be amenable to working with the Embassy in terms of programming and outreach. While numerous other credible voices exist in Austria, who speak out against extremism and violence, many of these are also extremely critical of USG policies and would not associate themselves with the Embassy.

¶2. (C) NAME: Mahdi, Reim
OCCUPATION: Iraquana, Austria-Iraq Friendship
Association
AGE: 23
GENDER: female
AFFILIATION: unknown
NATIONALITY: Austrian
ASSESSMENT: Ms. Mahdi has influence within the Iraqi community in Austria. She is an IV candidate, nominated by the Embassy.

¶3. (C) NAME: Heuberger, Valeria
OCCUPATION: Academic, Austrian Institute of East and
Southeast European Studies
AGE: 47
GENDER: female
AFFILIATION: Christian
NATIONALITY: Austrian
ASSESSMENT: Ms. Heuberger has limited influence within the Muslim community in Austria. She participates in many Embassy programs.

¶4. (C) NAME: Karakas, Hakan Alexander
OCCUPATION: Founder, NGO, "Future Through Language"
AGE: 28
GENDER: male
AFFILIATION: Christian
NATIONALITY: Austrian
ASSESSMENT: Mr. Karakas is able to reach young Muslims in his work with the NGO. Embassy supports his NGO's interfaith youth programs.

¶5. (C) NAME: Schlaffer, Edit
OCCUPATION: Women without Borders
AGE: 57
GENDER: female
AFFILIATION: unknown
NATIONALITY: Austrian
ASSESSMENT: Ms. Schlaffer's work with the NGO would give her some influence with the Muslim community in Austria. Embassy supported her conference for Muslim women.

¶6. (C) NAME: Oeztoplu, Buelent
OCCUPATION: Newspaper Publisher

AGE: 47
GENDER: Male
AFFILIATION: Muslim
NATIONALITY: Turkish
ASSESSMENT: A former IV, Mr. Oeztoplu has significant influence with second generation Muslim immigrants through his newspaper, "Wiener Biber".

17. (U) The POC for Muslim Outreach is Katherine Perez:
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McCaw